

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 10, 2007

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 613

Honorable Members
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 613, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Education."

This bill is objectionable because it prematurely requires the Department to make changes in early childhood education programs prior to the completion of the work of the legislatively mandated Early Learning Educational Task Force set up pursuant to Act 259 of 2006.

This bill directs the Department of Education to conduct an assessment on an individual kindergarten or junior kindergarten student's readiness for grade one based on a range of characteristics that will be developed by the Department. However, the Department of Education believes it will not be able to comply with this requirement and develop the assessment tool within the time constraints imposed by this measure.

Additionally, this bill directs the Department of Education to report to the Legislature before the regular

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session of 2008 on the planning and development of the appropriate curriculum for junior kindergarten and to submit its findings and recommendations on the planned junior kindergarten curricula, successful models, and assessments to be used in the placement of junior kindergarten and kindergarten students in the first grade, as well as the facilities to be used for junior kindergarten. Again, the Department of Education has stated that this deadline is unrealistic and that it will not be able to comply.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill No. 613 without my approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle", written in a cursive style.

LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii